





PEBBLES AND BAMM-BAMM Vol. 4, No. 27, June, 1975,

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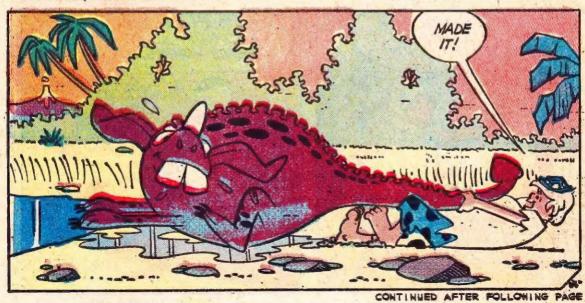


























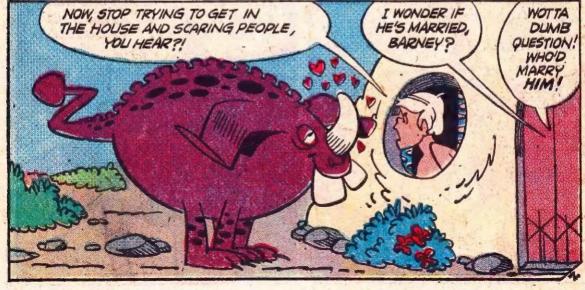












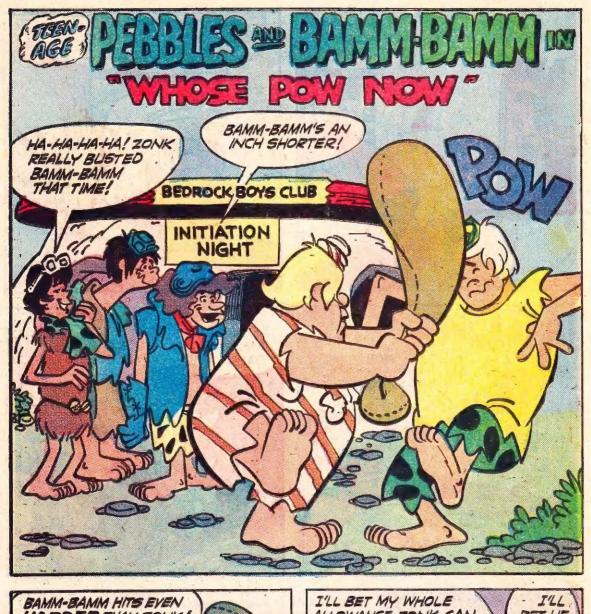


























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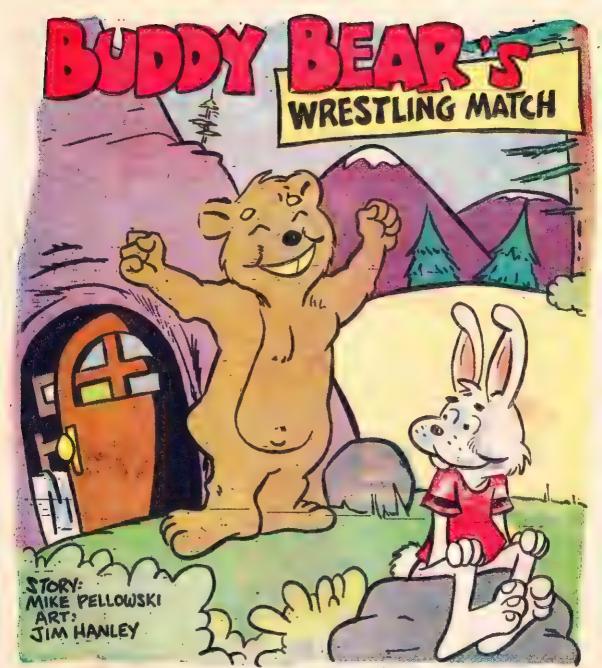












It was springtime in Yellowstone National Park. All of the bears were just waking up from their long, winter sleep. The birds were singing. Bees were buzzing and trout were splashing in the babbling brook. It was a very beautiful day, Buddy Bear rolled over in his bed. His cave was warm and cozy. He wanted to catch a few extra minutes of sleep. He wasn't lazy. He had gone to bed late last winter and was catching up on the sleep he had missed. He pulled his pillow over his head and stuffed the corners into his furry ears. He tossed and turned. "What is all that noise?" he mumbled.

Suddenly, he heard a robin's cheerful tune. His eyelids snapped open. He sat up in his bod. His lips curled up into a big, bear grin. He leaped out of his-

bed. "It's Spring!" he shouted happily. "It's Spring!
It's Spring! It's time for fun! It's time to smell the
flowers! It's time to pick berries and eat delicious,
sweet honey! Hoo-Ray!" he yelled.

Buddy Bear ran out into the sunshine. Buddy's friend, Walt Rabbit, was waiting at the cave's opening. Buddy wasn't a full-grown bear. He was only a few feet taller than his rabbit friend. Buddy was the smallest bear in the park. "I thought you'd never wake up!" said Walt. "I could hear you snoring miles away." he added. Buddy knew his furry friend was-only teesing. Walt and Buddy both laughed.

"Was it a hard winter?" questioned Buddy.

"It was terribly cold. We had alot of sleet and snow...
Food was scarce; but everyone made it through.

without much trouble," answered Walt.

"I'm alad." remarked Buddy.

"Are you hungry?" questioned Walt.

"I'm hungry as a bear!" growled Buddy.

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's go over to the berry bushes and the honey tree!" suggested Walt. Buddy nedded and off they ran.

Buddy was the first bear to reach the berry patch. He got there faster because he was smaller and quicker than his bigger, stronger, bear buddies. Walter Rabbit began to munch on juicy blackberries. Buddy headed

straight for the honey tree. He climbed up to the hollow spot in the tree trunk where the bees lived. He reached in and scooped out a pawfull of sweet, tasty honey. He began to lap it up with his tongue.

The other bears greeted each other as they all lumbered into the clearing where the berry bushes grew. "Look!" said an old brown bear. "Buddy has begten us to the honey tree. We'll all have to wait our turn." First come-first serve was the law of the woods.

"I'm not waiting my turn, I want honey now!" snarled Bruiser Bear. Bruiser was a grizzly bear and a mean customer. He was the biggest, meanest bear in



the woods. He walked over to the honey tree and pulled Buddy down out of the branches.

"Hey, what's the big idea? I was here first!" said Buddy.

"I'm the biggest, so I out first! Want to fight about It?" growled Bruiser.

Everyone thought Buddy would back away. Bruiser

about it if I have to!" replied Buddy, "Rules are made to be kept. We're not wild animals. We're civilized bears. You can't break the rules. I'll stop you even if I have to fight you!" shouted the smaller bear. All of the bears applauded Buddy's bravery. They knew he was right. They admired him even though they didn't believe he had a chance of beating Bruiser.

"Let's wrestle!"-said Bruiser, Buddy accepted the challenge.



"Wait one second!" velled Wait Rabbit, Walt came out of the berry patch and whispered something into Buddy's ear. Walt then made a motion with his pow as if demonstrating something. Buddy smiled and nodded.

"Wrestling by bear rules, Let's go!" roared Bruiser. Bruiser charged. Buddy side-stepped him.

"You're a fat, flea bag and your teeth are falling out!" teased Buddy. The remark made Bruiser very mad. He was so anary that he didn't watch what he was doing. He grabbed for Buddy but missed. Buddy got behind Bruiser. He raised his paw and chapped Bruiser on the back of the neck, The blow knocked Bruiser to the ground.

"Hey! That's not fair! You didn't follow the bear wrestling rules. That was a rabbit punch!" screamed Bruiser: Buddy smiled and winked at Bruiser. The big bear finally realized that rules were made to be followed. He apologized and boosted Buddy back up into the honey tree. He then patiently awaited his



